

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARA-10 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 PM-03 DODE-00 SPC-01 PRS-01

DRC-01 CPR-01 SSO-00 /065 W
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P 101155Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1769

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 12395

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IT, US

SUBJECT: SUGGESTED INVITATION FOR ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDER
SECRETARY TO VISIT WASHINGTON

REF: ROME 11694 AND 12347

1. REFTELS REPORT FORTHCOMING TRIP BY ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDER SECRETARY BENSI TO CUBA AND OTHER CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES.
2. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT INVITE BENSI TO VISIT WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH APPROPRIATE SENIOR OFFICIALS ON HIS WAY BACK TO ITALY FROM HIS TRIP TO CUBA. REGARDING TIMING, BENSI WOULD PROBABLY BE ABLE TO TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON DURING FIRST WEEK OF DECEMBER.
3. WE REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZE THE EMBASSY TO INVITE BENSI. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR HIM TO CALL ON ARA ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH AND WOULD ALSO SUGGEST THAT A COURTESY CALL BE ARRANGED ON UNDER SECRETARY PORTER. BENSI WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR OF LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS, MARCO FORTINI, AND PERHAPS OTHER OFFICIALS FROM THE MINISTRY'S ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE.

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4. BENSI'S POSITION IS HIS FIRST EXPOSURE TO FOREIGN

AFFAIRS AND ALTHOUGH MODERATE, AS A SOCIALIST HE IS BURDENED WITH PREDICTABLE BIAS WHICH HE HAS BROUGHT TO HIS JOB. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE TO CULTIVATE BENSI, EXPOSE HIM MORE TO THE UNITED STATES, AND GIVE HIM A DIRECT VIEW OF U.S. POSITIONS ON VARIOUS LATIN AMERICAN ISSUES. HIS SCHEDULED TRIP TO THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE PROVIDES AN EXCELLENT AND NATURAL OPPORTUNITY FOR THIS.

5. SINCE BENSI IS SCHEDULED TO DEPART ROME ON NOVEMBER 14, WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO OUR SUGGESTION THAT HE BE INVITED TO WASHINGTON BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON NOVEMBER 12 SO THAT WE CAN DO THE NECESSARY ON THIS END BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE.

6. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST. VOLPE

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